



REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending. Claims 10-16 and 27-30 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention, the requirement having been traversed. By this Amendment, the specification is amended; claim 11 is amended; and the abstract is amended.

The undersigned confirms election of Group I, claims 1-9 and 17-26. However, it is respectfully submitted that the reasons for insisting upon restriction are improper and that the restriction is improper and must be withdrawn.

Groups I and II are related as combination and subcombination. Claim 1 recites a snowmobile including a windshield detachably mounted to a support frame via at least one locking structure. Claim 2 recites that the at least locking structure includes a plurality of locking members, each having a shaft connected at a first end to one of the support frame members and the windshield and having an enlarged portion at a second end, and a plurality of locking member receiving structures associated with one of the support frame and the windshield, the plurality of locking member receiving structures arranged to releasably engage the plurality locking members upon application of predetermined force, wherein engagement of the locking members and the locking member receiving structures detachably connects the windshield to the support frame.

Claim 10 recites a detachable windshield assembly including an windshield support frame adapted to be mounted to a steering mechanism of a vehicle, the windshield support frame including a plurality of elongated support frame members spaced apart from one another, a windshield locking structure provided on the windshield support frame, and a windshield detachably connectable to the support frame via the windshield locking structure. Claim 11 recites a windshield locking structure that is word for word identical with the locking structure recited in claim 2.

RECEIVED
JUN 05 2003
GROUP 3600

The undersigned also notes that the bodies of claims 3 and 12 are word for word identical; the bodies of claims 5 and 13 are word for word identical; the bodies of claims 6 and 14 are word for word identical; the bodies of claims 7 and 15 are word for word identical; and the bodies of claims 9 and 16 are word for word identical.

It is respectfully noted that the Examiner's reasons for insisting upon restriction, namely that the "combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed" is incorrect as Applicants recite numerous features of the present invention in the subcombination claims that are word for word identical with the features recited in the combination claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that upon allowance of the combination claims, the subcombination claims will be allowable and must be rejoined with the combination claims. See MPEP §806.05(c).

Applicants also note that the Examiner has indicated that claims 2, 3, 5, 7 and 9 define patentable subject matter. As claims 11, 12, 13, 15, and 16, respectively, recite the exact same features as claims 2, 3, 5, 7 and 9, it is respectfully submitted that these claims also define patentable subject matter and should be rejoined and allowed.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 17 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Vetter (U.S. Patent 4,087,110). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a snowmobile including a chassis, a motor disposed on the chassis, a ground engaging endless track disposed below the chassis and operatively connected to the motor, at least one ski disposed on the chassis, a steering mechanism operatively connected to the at least one ski, a support frame mounted to the steering mechanism, the support frame having at least two support frame members laterally spaced from one another, and a windshield detachably mounted to the support frame via at least locking structure.

Vetter discloses a windshield assembly employed on a motorcycle fairing 12. The windshield assembly 10 includes curved resilient windshield 14, a pair of substantially identical hinges 16 and pair of substantially identical clips 18. The clips 18 are secured to a pair of upstanding arms 22 of the fairing 12 and releasably hold the windshield at opposite side edges 24.

In order for a reference to anticipate a claim, all of the claimed features must be disclosed in a single embodiment of the reference. Vetter does not disclose or suggest a snowmobile including ground engaging endless track disposed below a chassis, at least one ski disposed on the chassis, a steering mechanism operatively connected to the at least one ski, a support frame mounted to the steering mechanism, and a windshield detachably mounted to the support frame via at least one locking structure, as recited in claim 1.

The snowmobile referred to in the Office Action in column 1, lines 41-48 of Vetter is discussed in Vetter's description of the prior art, it is not included in any embodiment of Vetter's invention. None of the three embodiments disclosed by Vetter teaches or suggests a snowmobile, an endless track, at least one ski, a support frame mounted to a steering mechanism, or a windshield detachably mounted to the support frame via at least one locking structure. The Office Action indicates that the fairing 12 of Vetter is deemed to be equivalent to Applicants' claimed support frame. It is respectfully submitted that it is not. There is no disclosure or suggestion that the fairing 12 of Vetter is mounted to a steering mechanism. In fact, it is respectfully submitted that as shown in Figure 1 of Vetter, the fairing 12 is attached to the frame of the motorcycle, not to a steering mechanism.

Claims 4 and 6 recite additional features of the invention and are allowable for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein.

Claim 10 recites a detachable windshield assembly including a windshield support frame adapted to be mounted to a steering mechanism of a vehicle. As discussed above, Vetter does not disclose or suggest a windshield support frame adapted to be mounted to a steering mechanism. Accordingly, Vetter cannot anticipate or render obvious claim 10. Claims 27-30 recite additional features of the invention and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 10 and for the additional features recited therein.

Claim 17 recites a detachable windshield assembly for a snowmobile including a windshield mounting structure, the windshield mounting structure being constructed and arranged to be mounted to a steering mechanism of the snowmobile and extend forwardly thereof.

As discussed above, Vetter does not disclose or suggest a windshield mounting structure constructed and arranged to be mounted to a steering mechanism of a snowmobile. Accordingly, Vetter cannot anticipate or render obvious claim 17.

Claim 22 recites a method of detachably mounting a windshield to a snowmobile including a detaching a windshield support frame to a steering mechanism of the snowmobile. As discussed above, there is no disclosure or suggestion by Vetter of attaching a windshield support frame to a steering mechanism of snowmobile. Accordingly, Vetter cannot anticipate or render obvious claim 22.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4, 6, 17 and 22 over Vetter are respectfully requested.

Claims 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Vetter in view of Risley (U.S. Patent 5,832,786). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 recites additional features of the invention and is allowable for the same reasons discussed above with respect claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Risley fails to cure the deficiencies of Vetter with

respect to claim 1 and that even assuming it would have been obvious to combine Vetter and Risley, such a combination of would not have resulted in the inventions of claims 1 and 8.

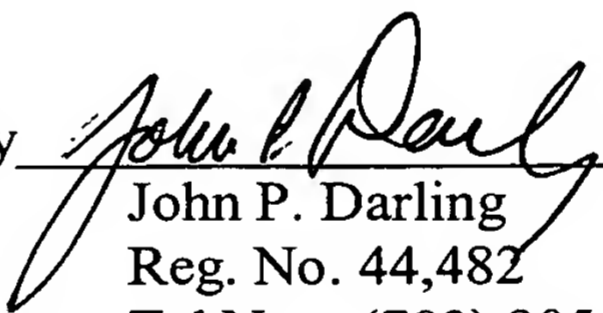
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 over Vetter in view of Risley are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 18-21 and 23-26 define patentable subject matter. However, in view of the remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance. Applicants also respectfully request rejoinder of claims 10-16 and 27-30 and allowance of those claims.

Should the examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By 
John P. Darling
Reg. No. 44,482
Tel No.: (703) 905-2045
Fax No.: (703) 905-2500

JPD/tmt

P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000